

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
UTILITY DIVISION  
AGENDA NO. 97-7-28**

Date Prepared: July 24, 1997

For Work Week Commencing: July 28, 1997

Business Meeting Date & Time: July 28, 1997, 10:00 a.m.

General Introduction This agenda is the Commission's Utility Division agenda for the work week designated. In the later part of each week (generally, Thursday by 2:00 p.m.) prior to the work week to which an agenda pertains, the agenda is posted on the public information bulletin board at the Commission offices, deposited in the mail directed to all persons who have properly requested notice by mail, placed on the state electronic bulletin board, and posted to the PSC's world wide web site at <http://www.psc.mt.gov>.

Place of Meetings All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.

Inquiries General inquiries concerning this Utility Division agenda and subscribing to notice by mail may be made to Dennis Crawford at (406) 444-6182 or Dan Elliott at (406) 444-6187. They may refer inquiries to another person within the agency.

Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities Anyone needing an accommodation for physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend a scheduled meeting should contact the Commission Secretary at (406) 444-6199 sufficiently prior to the meeting to allow accommodations to be made.

**Work Sessions** All items identified below are for Commission discussion or action on the day designated (Dan).

1. MPC Docket D96.2.22/L-97.1.Rul - To discuss and act, as necessary, on SB396 rules for gas restructuring and MPC's gas case (7/29/97)
2. MDU Docket D97.3.43 - Discuss and act on draft final order (7/29/97)
3. Shelby Gas Docket D96.8.132 - To get Commission direction on the temporary rate reduction of Shelby Gas Association (7/29/97)
4. MPC Docket D97.2.29 - Action on issuing protective order for Express Pipeline Contract Information (7/29/97)
5. CELP vs. MPC Docket D97.7.127 - To discuss the complaint-and others that may be filed by the w/s-and to get direction to issue notice of complaint. I will ask for an abbreviated response period due to the delay getting this to the Commission and the fact that MPC has already been served by the complainant (7/29/97)
6. YELP vs. MPC Docket D97.7.129 - To discuss complaint generally, and to get direction to notice (7/29/97)

7. PSC vs. USWC Docket D97.7.116 - General discussion, update as necessary, if needed (7/29/97)
8. USWC Docket D97.7.125 - Address USWC's Motion for Protective Order; direction to issue a notice of opportunity to intervene (7/29/97)
9. USWC Docket D96.12.220 - Discuss and rule on MITS' Petition for Late Intervention filed 7/22/97; placeholder to also address discovery motions by USWC and AT&T if needed (7/29/97)
10. FCC Update - Discuss recent FCC matters and draft letter to FCC regarding Montana Cost model (7/29/97)
11. Weekly Scheduling Meeting - Will be held at 9:45 a.m. on the day of the Business Meeting

**Action Items** All items identified below are for action at the Commission business meeting.

1. SPRINT - Docket N97.7.118 (Nina)

On July 7, 1997, Sprint Communications filed tariff changes to introduce Sprint Prepaid FONCARD Service; and change the Spree Instant FONCARD text. This was a notice item on Agenda No. 97-7-14. Staff recommends approval.

2. CENEX INC. - Docket D97.4.80 (Joel)

On April 28, 1997, Cenex, Inc. filed an application for authority to revise its tariff for Crude Oil Gathering Lines. The new tariff will reflect its official name change from Farmers Union Central Exchange to Cenex, Inc., eliminate the current Pondera Field to Conrad tariff, define ASTM Standard Methods for water and sediment and define light and medium crude oil types. This will not change any associated rates. A memo concerning this filing was routed last week and it is ready for action.

3. BLACK HILLS POWER & LIGHT - Docket D97.6.108 (Eric)

On June 24, 1997, BHP&L filed a Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider application. A Notice of Opportunity for Public Hearing was issued on July 2, 1997. Requests for hearing were due by July 28, 1997. No requests have been received. This application will increase rates by \$17,156 over the base cost of fuel approved in Docket No. 83.4.25. A default order has been drafted.

4. HOT SPRINGS TELEPHONE CO. - Docket N97.6.107 (Kate)

On July 7, 1997, Hot Springs Telephone Co. filed to correct its local public access line tariff that was approved by the Commission on an interim basis last month by revising its rate for "dumb" local public access line service from \$22/month to \$17/month. The new rate is the same as the one-party business rate. Staff recommends approval (on an interim basis again).

5. CLARK FORK TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC - Docket N97.6.114(Bonnie)

On June 30, 1997, Clark Fork Telecommunications, Inc., filed a revised tariff page listing enhanced Internet access charges allowing multiple logins with greater access speeds in the larger CFT exchanges - Thompson Falls, Superior and Plains.

6. CITIZENS TELECOMMUNICATIONS CO. - Docket N97.7.123 (Vicki)

Citizens Telecommunications Company of Montana has filed an Application for Approval of Detariffed New Services - Customized Local Area Signaling Service (CLASS).

7. MCI TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION - Docket N97.7.122 (Vicki)

MCI has filed changes to its tariff to enable customers of MCI's interstate offering of Asia Plan to receive Option Y (homeMCI One) usage rates for intrastate calls made under than plan; and to make a text change, revising the tariff page number from revised page 1 to revised page 2 for MCI transmittal number 97-11.

**Notice Items** All items identified below are noticed for public participation purposes. Unless otherwise stated in the text of the notice, the items will be action items on the next following agenda or a subsequent agenda and participation may be had by submitting written comments to the Public Service Commission, 1701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda.

1. MDU Resources Group, Inc. - Docket D97.7.121 (Eric)

On July 14, 1997, MDU filed an application seeking authority to issue up to \$60,000,000 of Common Stock within a two year period in one or more transactions. The use of this stock will be for the acquisition of a business and/or its assets and may be issued directly to a seller. Alternatively, the additional Common Stock may be issued and sold in one or more public offerings.

2. MONTANA POWER COMPANY (Robin)

On July 25, 1997, Montana Power Company will filed for authority to enter into a purchase and master lease agreement which is a financial document creating a security interest in MPC property.

**Information Items** All items identified below are for information only.

Linda Vista Water Docket D97.4.62 - NSA suspending procedural schedule and setting date for stipulation presentation was served July 11, 1997.

Citizens TeleCom Docket D97.3.48 - NSA waiving ARM 38.2.4806(6) was served July 21, 1997.

**Tentative Action Items for Agenda 97-8-4**

Docket N97.7.118 SPRINT (Nina)  
Docket N97.6.107 HOT SPRINGS TELEPHONE CO. (Kate)  
Docket N97.6.114 CLARK FORK TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC (Bonnie)

**New Filings Received in Past Week**

D97.7.119 GFG - Rate Increase and Request for Permission to Include West  
Yellowstone System in Tracking Mechanism  
N97.7.120 PTI - PTI/Century Transaction Plan  
D97.7.121 MDU - Security Issue  
N97.7.122 MCI - Revise Asia Plan, extend Vnet and MCI One Short Haul  
Promo, and miscellaneous text changes  
N97.7.123 Citizens - Customized Local Area Signaling Service (CLASS)  
D97.7.124 Clark Fork Telecommunication - Clark Fork/Blackfoot IntraLATA Toll  
Dialing Parity Implementation Plans  
D97.7.125 USWC - Request for Approval of Flexibly Price Regulated  
Telecommunications Services in Certain Local Exchanges  
N97.7.126 MPC - Annual Updates of Schedules QFLT-1 and STPP-1  
D97.7.127 MPC vs. CELP - Complaint regarding Light Load Curtailment of  
Contracts  
N97.7.128 City of Troy - No Commission Action Required/Tracking Only  
D97.7.129 MPC vs. YELP - Complaint regarding Light Load Curtailment of  
Contracts